

CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND SECTION OF ACT CONTINU-
ING HALF-PAY TO CERTAIN WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

[To accompany J. Res. No. 18.]

MARCH 19, 1860.

MR. POTTER, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made
the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom have been referred the petitions of divers widows of revolutionary soldiers, married subsequent to the year 1800, asking for arrears of pensions due them under the act of February 3, 1853, having had the subject-matter under examination, beg leave to report:

That the second section of the act of Congress approved February 3, 1853, provides as follows:

“That the widows of all officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, of the revolutionary army, who were married subsequent to January, A. D. eighteen hundred, shall be entitled to a pension in the same manner as those who were married before that date.”

Your committee have no doubt but that it was the intention of Congress in passing said act to grant pensions to the widows in said section described from the 4th day of March, 1848, under the law existing and in force at the time of the passage of the act of February 3, 1853; and such is the construction of said section by the Court of Claims in the case of Jane Smith.

Your committee, entertaining those views, are of opinion that the relief sought by the numerous petitioners, whose claims have been referred to them, ought to be granted by general, and not special, legislation; and therefore recommend the adoption of the accompanying joint resolution.

CONSTITUTION OF SECOND SECTION OF ACT CONCERNING
ING BALLY TO CERTAIN WIDOWS AND ORPHANS
The message of the President

March 10, 1861

Mr. Speaker, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made
the following

REPORT

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred
the petition of certain widows of Revolutionary soldiers, presented
to the House in the year 1859, asking the passage of a bill to
the effect of February 3, 1855, having had the subject under
consideration, beg leave to report

That the second section of the act of Congress approved February
3, 1855, provides as follows:

That the widows of all officers, non-commissioned officers, mus-
sins, and privates of the revolutionary army who were married sub-
sequent to January 3, 1783, and whose husbands died before that
date in the same manner as those who were married before that

date, your committee have no doubt but that it was the intention of Con-
gress in passing said act to grant pensions to the widows in said sec-
tion described from the day of March, 1818, under the law exist-
ing and in force at the time of the passage of the act of February 3,
1855, and that is the construction of said section by the Court of
Claims in the case of Jane Smith.

Your committee, considering these three sets of opinions that the
widows of the numerous officers, whose claims have been re-
ferred to them, ought to be granted by Congress, and not special legis-
lation, and therefore recommend the adoption of the accompanying
joint resolution.

That the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred
the petition of certain widows of Revolutionary soldiers, presented
to the House in the year 1859, asking the passage of a bill to
the effect of February 3, 1855, having had the subject under
consideration, beg leave to report